

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 27, 2005, in which claims 1-30 were originally pending. Of those, the Applicants have provisionally elected claims 1-10 for further prosecution on the merits in response to the Restriction Requirement of May 27, 2005. Of the elected claims, claims 1-4, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,635,506 to Volant. In addition, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Volant, in view of U.S. Patent 6,597,068 to Petrarca. Finally, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Non-elected structure claims 11-30 are cancelled, without prejudice, and the Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the same in a divisional application.

With regard to indicated allowable subject matter, claim 6 is amended so as to be written in independent form, including the elements of the base and intervening claims. As such, claim 6 and the claims dependent therefrom have been placed in condition for allowance.

As to the remaining rejections, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that the dielectric layer adjacent each side of the signal transmission line in the second metallization layer is removed in a manner that exposes the outer edges of the sacrificial material. This is in addition to access holes through the signal transmission line that also expose the sacrificial layer. Support for this amendment is found at least in

paragraph [0033] of the specification, as well as in Figure 2(h), which particularly shows voids 136 that expose the outer edges of the sacrificial material 124.

The combination of dielectric material adjacent the sides of the signal transmission line (to expose the outer edges of the sacrificial material) and the access holes through the signal transmission line provide for an efficient removal of the sacrificial material. In contrast, it will be seen from Figures 17 and 18 of the Volent reference that there is no removal of portions of dielectric layer 150 adjacent the signal transmission line 160, as is presently claimed. Moreover, any dielectric removal taught in Volent does not result in the exposure of the outer edges of sacrificial material 130, as is also presently claimed. The only access to the sacrificial material 130 of Volent is through the access holes 175 in the transmission line 160.

Accordingly, since Volent does not teach or suggest the dielectric removal adjacent the signal transmission line to expose outer edges of the sacrificial material, the present amendment has overcome the §102 and §103 rejections to claims 1-5, 9 and 10, and it is respectfully requested that the same be withdrawn.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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